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25 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

Director, Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis,
Directorate of Intelligence

SUBJECT: Results of Conference on Afghanistan

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1. NESA on 19 July hosted a conference on Afghanistan for approximately 90 analysts from the Intelligence Community to provide a forum to exchange perspectives on the collection and analytic effort on Afghanistan, to identify collection and analytic gaps and deficiencies, and to offer the opportunity for analysts to get to know each other better. The conference [redacted] was the first to gather analysts from throughout the US Government to discuss Afghan issues. The NSA, DIA, State, OSD, the military services (including CENTCOM), and three directorates of CIA sent representatives. [redacted]

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2. A series of speakers, representing each of the major participating agencies, gave presentations on collection, analysis, and the policymakers' perspectives on Afghanistan.

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[redacted] encouraged analysts to provide the details necessary for policy decisions, not just to focus on the "big picture," and to project the impact of specific policy alternatives. [redacted]

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3. Several themes emerged from the conference to improve analysis on Afghanistan:

-- We will have to be creative in finding ways to exploit the growing volume of material on Afghanistan.

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-- Analysts too often evaluate the situation from the US perspective rather than looking at it from the Soviet viewpoint.

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4. The analysts welcomed the opportunity to exchange perspectives on collection and analytic efforts pertaining to Afghanistan. Judging from the discussions during the sessions and the breaks and comments from attendees at the end of the conference, analysts obtained many valuable insights and contacts.

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5. We are planning followup conferences later this year centering on topical issues--the campaign season in review, Soviet evaluations of their performance, an alternative to the Babrak regime acceptable to both the resistance and the Soviets. NESA will also host

next year, a conference featuring prominent scholars.

and, early

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Attachment
As stated

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SUBJECT: Results of Conference on Afghanistan (U)

DDI/NESA/SO/ [redacted] (25 July 85)

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